

In the specification:

◇ Please insert before the first complete paragraph on page 1 the following:

This application is a continuation of and claims priority to PCT US99/20852, filed September 10, 1999, which claims priority to United States provisional application no. 60/100,037, filed September 11, 1998, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

◇ Please amend the fifth complete paragraph on page 4 as following:

Figure 5A-5C depicts is the consensus amino acid sequence of the N-terminal domain of vertebrate hedgehog protein.